

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 02041 081748Z  
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 AID-05  
VOE-00 CA-01 INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
INRE-00 /060 W  
-----043958 081754Z /75

O 081645Z MAY 78 ZFF-4  
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 213  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 2041

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SREF  
SUBJ: RETURN OF 64 VIETNAM  
REFUGEES ABOARD VESSEL REGENT STATE TO VIETNAM

1. UNHCR DEPUTY DIRECTOR AT KUALA LUMPUR CARPENTER REPORTS  
AS FOLLOWS:

A. VESSEL REGENT STATE ARRIVED AT SINGAPORE 6:00 A.M. MAY 4,  
1978 WITH 64 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD. THE SHIP IS REGISTERED IN  
LIBERIA AND OWNED BY A LIBERIAN COMPANY THAT IS PRINCIPALLY  
OWNED BY A BRITISH SUBJECT AND PARTIALLY OWNED BY A WEST GERMAN  
CITIZEN.

B. BEFORE REFUGEES ARE ALLOWED TO DISEMBARK AT SINGAPORE  
ANOTHER GOVERNMENT MUST UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEE THAT THE  
REFUGEES WILL BE RESETTLED ELSEWHERE WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER THEIR  
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ARRIVAL AT SINGAPORE.

C. UNHCR HAS TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO FIND A GUARANTOR GOVERNMENT  
FOR THESE 64 REFUGEES.

D. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
THE REFUGEES BECAUSE THE VESSEL WAS NOT REGISTERED IN BRITAIN.

E. UNHCR HAS RECEIVED NO RESPONSE TO ITS INQUIRY TO THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT GUARANTEEING RESETTLEMENT OF THE REFUGEES.

F. ON MAY 8, 1978 THE MASTER OF THE VESSEL, CAPTAIN ISMAEL, REPORTED TO UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE OWNER TO RETURN THE REFUGEES TO VIETNAM OR TO WHERE THEY WERE PICKED UP AT.

G. THE BOAT THAT THE REFUGEES WERE RESCUED FROM HAS SUNKEN. THE CAPTAIN OF THE REGENT STATE IS CONSIDERING PURCHASING A BOAT LOCALLY TO PUT THE REFUGEES ON.

H. AT 8:00 P.M. MAY 8, 1978 UNHCR HEADQUARTERS AT GENEVA VERIFIED TO CARPENTER THAT THE OWNERS HAVE THREATENED TO RETURN THE REFUGEES TO VIETNAM.

I. CARPBYWER REPORTS THAT UNHCR PLANS TO ASK THE BRITISH GOCPORGVMREPORTS THAT THE VESSEL IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE SINGAPORE THE MORNING OF MAY 9, 1978.

K. PLEASE ADVISE IF DEPARTMENT WISHES TO INTERVENE IF GUARANTEES ARE NOT FORTHCOMING FROM THE BRITISH OR WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENTS. HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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